
By: **Delegates Carter, Doory, Hammen, Haynes, Kirk, Marriott, McHale,
Murray, Nathan-Pulliam, Niemann, Oaks, Parker, Rosenberg, and
V. Turner**

Introduced and read first time: February 25, 2004

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Maryland Public Mental Health System**

3 FOR the purpose of creating a Task Force to Study the Maryland Public Mental
4 Health System; providing for the composition, staff, and compensation of the
5 Task Force; requiring the Task Force to study certain issues regarding the
6 public mental health system; requiring the Task Force to submit a certain report
7 to the Governor and certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a
8 certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
9 the Task Force to Study the Maryland Public Mental Health System.

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
11 MARYLAND, That:

12 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Maryland Public Mental Health
13 System.

14 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

15 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
16 the Senate;

17 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
18 the House;

19 (3) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's
20 designee;

21 (4) the Director of the Mental Hygiene Administration, or the Director's
22 designee;

23 (5) the Director of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration, or the
24 Director's designee;

25 (6) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the
26 Secretary's designee;

- 1 (7) the Secretary of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee; and
- 2 (8) the following members appointed by the Governor:
- 3 (i) one representative of the Baltimore City Chapter of the Alliance
4 for the Mentally Ill;
- 5 (ii) one representative of the Maryland Psychological Association;
- 6 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Psychiatric Association;
- 7 (iv) one representative of the Maryland judiciary;
- 8 (v) two doctors with experience working in the public mental
9 health system;
- 10 (vi) two administrators from a Maryland mental health facility;
- 11 (vii) one representative of the Maryland Classified Employees
12 Association; and
- 13 (viii) one representative of the American Federation of State, City,
14 and Municipal Employees.
- 15 (c) The Task Force shall elect a chairman from among its members.
- 16 (d) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall provide staff for the
17 Task Force.
- 18 (e) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation for serving on
19 the Task Force, but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
20 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 21 (f) The Task Force shall:
- 22 (1) conduct an overall needs assessment of the services offered by and
23 the structure of the public mental health system;
- 24 (2) break down the needs assessment by demographic group;
- 25 (3) identify currently developed system resources and possible future
26 system resources;
- 27 (4) determine the ability of various groups in the system to access
28 services offered through community-based centers;
- 29 (5) study whether uninsured individuals in need of mental health
30 services are obtaining those services;
- 31 (6) assess whether co-occurring disorders are being properly diagnosed
32 and the appropriate services are being coordinated throughout the system; and

1 (7) evaluate whether acute care and long-term care needs are being met
2 by the public mental health system.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before September
4 30, 2005, the Task Force shall issue a report of its findings and recommendations to
5 the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate
6 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Ways and
7 Means Committee.

8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2004. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of
10 September 30, 2005, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
11 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.